

**STATEMENT BY DELEGATION OF SINGAPORE DURING THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) WORKING GROUP SESSION ON KIRIBATI ON 19 JANUARY 2015**

[Speaking time: 2 mins]

Mr President,

We warmly welcome the delegation of Kiribati to Geneva. We commend Kiribati's commitment to promoting and upholding human rights through its engagement in the UPR process.

Singapore takes positive note of Kiribati's commitment to tackle the serious problem of gender-based violence through a whole-of-government approach. This effort encompasses close collaboration with local communities. Singapore **recommends** that Kiribati continues to take steps to tackle gender-based violence.

We are supportive of Kiribati's efforts to raise education standards. Kiribati has sought to upgrade the skills of its teachers, address education issues for people with disabilities, and improve vocational education standards. Singapore **recommends** that Kiribati continues its efforts to raise education standards and improve access to education.

A country's economic and social development can lead to an improvement in health standards. The reverse is also true. In this context, we take positive note of Kiribati's efforts to increase access to health and medical services. Kiribati has also sought to improve HIV preventive, counselling and testing services. Singapore **recommends** that Kiribati continues to improve its health system and ensure access to quality health for all.

As a fellow Small Island Developing State, Singapore joins the many friends of Kiribati in wishing it success in implementing its policies to promote and protect human rights.

. . . . .